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Dear Hal=

I had intended to write you as soon as I returned from the recent Washington conference but I wanted to wait until I received two important documents so that I could send you copies. The two documents were the ARRB Hearings held in L.A. on Sept. 17, 1996 and the other document was the abstract from a recent (July, 1996) conference held in Fredonia, N.Y. under the "Fourth Decade" auspices. With this letter I'm enclosing the ARRB hearings (that of Liebeler & Belin) plus excerpts from the Fredonia conference I believe you'd be interested in. Also enclosed are other copies of item I know you'd be interested plus my letter I sent to "COPA" on how they treated me (badly) at the Washington conference.

Before I do get into this I wanted to ask you for the phone number of Colonel Castor (mentioned in your books). I met a researcher in ~~Dallas~~ Washington who asked me for it as he believed it may be unlisted. I said I'd write you & find out if permission can be granted for this researcher to call him. I've no idea what he wants to ask

Castor but I did promise I'd write you.

You mentioned in your letter whether I'd be interested in your manuscript on Hosty ("Hosty's Pudding"). You may have forgotten but I already have a copy as you sent it to me some time ago. Incidentally, Jan Griggs British JFK journal will publish an article by me exposing both the Hosty "Assignment Oswald" book & the La Fontaine's work. That article is due to appear any day now & undoubtedly will be available in Dallas for the upcoming Lancer Conference. It (I hope) will wake up people who ought to know better than to allow these 2 books to surface without a truly critical perspective. So far I've seen no real deep criticism of either with a few exceptions.

I'm glad to see that both you and your wife will be getting the Mary Ferrell award and, of course, I'll be there to hear it being presented. And I hope you can get a video done in time on yourself as some kind of acceptance speech. If you can't locate someone to do a video perhaps you can consult a video specialist or shop that would do it for you at a menimal cost. If that's not possible perhaps an audio tape can be made.

You mentioned about hearing that Livingstone was discussing his new book on the critics. You probably forgot but when I spoke to you on the phone I mentioned this to you. He wouldn't show me his manuscript.

I hope the enclosures on the Liebeler & Belin stuff will be useful for the "Honorable Men" book you're working on. I intend to use both of their "testimony" in an article

I'm working on which will be my observations on how the ARRB is conducting itself, my appearance at one of the hearings plus what I observed at the Sept. 17, 1996 hearing.

You asked if I had any word on Dave Lifton's new book and my answer is —no— nothing new yet. When I met Dave Liftm at the hearings in Los Angeles I specifically asked him as to how his book was doing and he dodged the question. I really don't know what his problems are with the book. Whatever he has would seem to me to have long been completed. Perhaps his publisher has objections to the text.

Now to get into a very brief outline of what went on at the recent Washington conference plus my brief meeting with an ARRB official who is listed as "Chief Analyst for Military Records".

I was impressed with the talk given by Kenneth Rahn, who is a professor of "Aerosol Chemistry". He has a background in neutron activation analysis & his talk was entitled "Good News on Neutron Activation." Although many who heard him speak claimed he upheld the Warren Commission's defense of Neutron Activation Analysis, I did not find this to be the case. (For example, one could conclude that because Rahn said that the samples analyzed by both the FBI & HSCA were capable of being the "same" he nevertheless pointed out that A) we don't know what method of statistical analysis

they used, and (B) this was the FBI's first "foray" into NAA. I think one of the chief points Rahn made was that in NAA you can prove dissimilarity but you cannot prove similarity.

Randy Robertson who spoke again pointed to the evidence of double head shot and his talk was on the "Analysis of Skull Fragments Recovered." His main point was in discussing what he termed were "secondary fractures" as compared to "primary fractures". Since I'm not a medical person I could not offer other alternatives to the double head shot but no one in the audience did (and I'm sure there were medical people there to refute him but none did).

On Saturday night I attended the Banquet Session and as I told you on the phone the Sylvia Meagher awards were given to Bud Fensterwald (accepted by his son & wife), Jim Lesar, Robert Groden, and Peter Dale Scott. Harrison Livingstone was at the dinner and Groden told me "he passed nasty notes" to him. Also at the dinner was Josiah Thompson. Some one at my dinner table told me he heard Thompson at one point remark = "You know, half the people here are crazy."

There were other panels but I won't bore you with the details. These covered the Paine family & the other panel dealt with "Hidden Messages in the Media". The latter was a farce which attempted to "prove" that messages telling of an assassination attempt on JFK could be found by analyzing ads or even poems in important papers or magazines prior to November 22nd!!

Now I want to discuss my meeting with an ARRB representative, Timothy A. Wray, whose card reads "Chief Analyst for Military Records". I overheard Marwell say that he had recommended Wray for this position (I am not clear as to how long he's held this position). It could be that Marwell knew of Wray when Marwell was in Germany looking at German records. I just don't know.

I sat down with Wray in one of the offices of the ARRB. Present with me were John Judge, Roger Peterson and other members of COPA.

I asked Wray several question relating to Oswald. Among the first was whether Wray had ever heard of "METO" which was some kind of operation being run out of Atsugi (and apparently all across the world) which I believe dealt with electronic (air) surveillance. Wray said — no — he hadn't heard of it. I specifically asked Wray this because Wray's background is military and he went to West Point & worked under the Joint Chiefs of Staff (in the 1990's I believe). He appears to be about mid-40's but I can't say for sure how old he is.

I then asked if he had any further information on whether there was a CID at El Toro & he said — no he hadn't, but he did know about what CID was all about.

I asked if he knew about what Col. Robert Jones had told the HSCA (about 5 men being assigned to Dallas on 11/22/63) + that these men were to say they

were "attached" to the Secret Service if any were approached. I pointed out that the records of these eight were somehow "lost".

I also asked Wray if he knew of a Capt. James Powell who took photos and that one has appeared showing the 6th floor window shortly after the assassination and where the other photos were. I said Powell (as well as Jones) were part of the 112th Military District and Wray said he knew of this.

As I was discussing both Jones & Powell, a kind of all-knowing smile crept across his face. He told me "you know, Mr. Vero - there is something peculiar about both these gentlemen". Both are misidentified by the HSCA as to their military ranks. I said how could this be since - as you well know when appearing as a witness you have to be very accurate in identifying yourself. Wray said the title Jones gave was inaccurate. Wray couldn't explain it, nor could I. We left it hanging there but I told him I'd write to him about this.

Wray also pointed out to me that James Powell is misidentified as a Captain. Wray said he was a Sergeant. I could ~~offer~~ offer no reason why this occurred, nor could Wray.

I asked Wray if he had been in touch with both Jones and Powell and he said, yes, he had. I asked Wray if Jones knew Powell & Wray said - no -

Jones did not know Powell. I then asked if Jones knew of Powell & Wray said — yes — he did know of Powell.

One interesting little tidbit that came out of my discussion with Wray on Powell is that at one point Wray volunteered the information that Powell is "a banjo player". I got the impression that Wray had conducted the interview with Powell at Powell's home, otherwise why bring up being a banjo player?

I don't know how much more to make of this but it does suggest more needs to be done about what Jones & Powell can tell us that could be significant. As far as I know no one else besides Wray has been in touch with these two.

If there are any questions you can think of before I write to Wray on Jones & Powell, let me know. Powell report, p.p., records destruction

Well, I guess I'll close now and I guess if I don't hear from you before I leave for Dallas (I'll be there from Wed. Nov. 20 through Wed. Nov. 27 and I'll be staying at the Dallas Grand Hotel.

Best regards to you and your wife!

— Hal